

IN THE ABSTRACT

Cancel the present Abstract and substitute therefor the enclosed Abstract.

REMARKS

Claims 1-22 have been cancelled and new claims 23-44 have been added.

The amendments to the claims have been made only to improve the form of the claims for examination purposes.

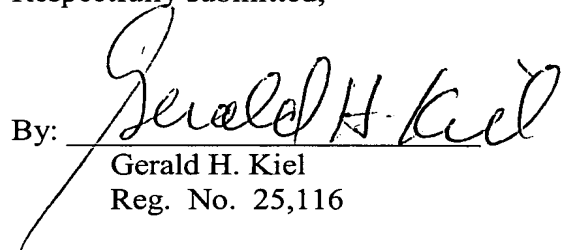
The specification and abstract have been amended to conform it to U.S. format.

No new matter is being added by this amendment.

An early and favorable action on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

By:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Gerald H. Kiel". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and registration number.

Gerald H. Kiel
Reg. No. 25,116

January 22, 2004
REED SMITH LLP
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GHK:jl

Enc.: Substitute Abstract
Marked-up/Bolded Version